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8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a transmission power level of the preamble portion differs from the non-preamble portion.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the preamble and non-preamble error encoding gains are a result of processing the data packet with a first and second convolutional encoder, respectively.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first convolutional encoder is a 7/8 convolutional encoder and the second convolutional encoder is a convolutional encoder in the range of a 1/3 to 1/2 convolutional encoder.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the preamble processing gain is a first spreading factor and the non-preamble processing gain is a second spreading factor.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the random access channel is a common packet channel.

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13.   (Currently Amended) A ~~wireless spread spectrum code division multiple access~~ user equipment (UE) for transmitting over a random access channel, comprising:

a convolutional encoder for formatting ~~non-control~~ non-preamble data; and

a transmitter for transmitting a random access transmission having a preamble portion and a non-preamble portion;

wherein a factor applied to the formatted non-control data in the non-preamble portion differs from a gain factor applied to other data in response to a formatting of the formatted non-control data with respect to a formatting of the other data.

14.   (Previously Presented) The UE of claim 13, wherein a transmission power level of the preamble portion differs from the non-preamble portion.

15.   (Previously Presented) The UE of claim 13, wherein the preamble and non-preamble error encoding gains are a result of processing the data packet with a first and second convolutional encoder, respectively.

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16.   (Previously Presented) The UE of claim 15, wherein the first convolutional encoder is a 7/8 convolutional encoder and the second convolutional encoder is a convolutional encoder in the range of a 1/3 to 1/2 convolutional encoder.

17.   (Previously Presented) The UE of claim 15, wherein the preamble processing gain is a first spreading factor and the non-preamble processing gain is a second spreading factor.

18.   (Previously Presented) The UE of claim 13, wherein the random access channel is a common packet channel.